

WRESTLING FORUM

OCTOBER 30, 1990

VOLUME 5

ISSUE 18

WRESTLING'S BEST KEPT SECRET

The Saga Continues.....	2
The Non-Barometer.....	3
People Are Wrestlers Too.....	4
Pencil Points.....	6
National Wrestling Alliance.....	8
Phantom of the Ring by Ed Garea.....	12
Things to Think About by Sean Hendrick.....	14
Dipstick/Class Act Awards.....	15
Independently Speaking.....	16
Memphis.....	17
World Wrestling Federation.....	19
Results from All Over.....	22
Miscellaneous Stuff.....	23

STAFF

Jon Gallagher - Editor

Sean Grande

Ed Garea

Jeff Siegel

Mike Viola

Sean Hendrick

Wrestling Forum is published on the 15th & 30th of each month and mailed the next day. Rates: \$1.50 per issue. All material copyright (c) Jon Gallagher 1990, all rights reserved.

THE SAGA CONTINUES

"Good Morning, Apple Computers. May I help you?"

Hi. This is Jon Gallagher. I'm the editor and publisher of Wrestling Forum, Wrestling's Best Kept Secret."

"Huh?"

I told you. It's a secret. We publish this little newsletter twice a month, on the 15th and 30th usually, and mail the following day. It costs \$1.50 per issue and people can subscribe for upto six months at a time. People send me renawals, and news, and results, and letters to the editor at WRESTLING FORUM, BOX 65, KNOXVILLE, IL unless a certain article like the Barometer or Tournament tells them to send it somewhere else.

"I'm not sure I follow you, sir."

Well, you see, we ordered a computer from you folks about eight weeks ago and it ain't here yet.

"So what can we do for you?"

YOU CAN TELL ME WHERE THE *#00*) THING'S AT!!!!

AS YES, FRIENDS and neighbors. It's back to work on the old Brother electric for a while. We've been informed that the computer was back ordered and wouldn't be shipped for another FOUR TO SIX WEEKS!!!! Not only that, we found out that Apple just came out with a computer just like the one we ordered that's CHEAPER than the one we were allegedly getting. Those aren't back ordered...they're in the stores.

More? Okay. We found out that we can get the new Mac plus a Laser jet printer for the same amount we paid for the "old" Mac and a dot matrix printer.

Except that Apple has my money.

And my computer - on back order.

And even though they have a couple thousand of my dollars, they won't loan me my own money to buy one off the floor of the local store. I'm surprised that they even let me breathe in the same room as one, to tell you the truth.

So, I have to wait for Apple to send my money back so I can buy one of their stupid computers off the floor which they claim are back-ordered. Estimated time of arrival for the check? Broken record from what they've been telling me forever: Two weeks.

And you thought Verne Gagne was in charge of an incompetent company. These people make Kevin Von Erich look like a Rhodes scholar.

IN THE MEANTIME, we've got quite of bit of wrestling news to pass along to you. One thing first: A lot of times, I don't tell you what's happened on WWF and NWA TV shows like I do with Memphis because I figure that most of you get to see them. A lot of times I don't go into a lot of detail about big shows for the same reason, or because I don't want to rehash what's been in other newsletters. I go a couple of scathing letters on that subject this past two weeks. As it turns out, a lot of you don't get to see the TBS show because your cable company doesn't carry it (especially in the case of our foreign subscribers). I've also discovered that upwards of 20% of you don't subscribe to any other newsletters (based on letters and phone conversations).

Here's the deal: I'll try to cater to both factions. I'll try to make the reports on TV shows and big events as entertaining as possible as to not to bore anyone at the same time as stepping up coverage of the same so that our exclusive readers don't feel left out. Fair enough? I'll give it my best shot and you all give me feedback on how we're doing. Okay?

THE WRESTLING BAROMETER

NORMALLY YOU'D TUNE in right here for Jeff Siegel and the Wrestling Barometer, however this month it's been canceled due to lack of interest.

WE USUALLY PUT A QUALIFIER on the voting that any entry with 15 or more points will be listed in either what's hot or what's not. Folks, not enough people voted for any one item to get 15 points.

THE BAROMETER HAS BEEN a staple of Wrestling Forum for more than two years now. The going at the beginning was rough and more than once we threatened to discontinue the column.

WE'LL TRY ONCE MORE. However, there's no reason I should hold up the publication of this bulletin waiting on a column to come when it's not going to come. There's no reason for everyone to wait on their news because no one cared enough to vote.

IF YOU ALL HAVE better things to do with your time, let us know that too. We've all got better things to do with ours as well.

THE DEADLINE FOR NOVEMBER ENTIRIES WILL BE 11/25. SEND BALLOTS TO:

**JEFF SIEGEL
BOX 5461
EVANSTON, IL 60204**

THANKS TO THOSE WHO did participate this time around. Sorry your time was wasted. Please try again one last time.

PEOPLE ARE WRESTLERS TOO

No, I didn't screw up the heading of the regular feature called *Wrestlers Are People Too*. One of our wrestling readers decided to contribute a unique look at some of his cohorts. In his cover letter he says that if fans can remain nameless in their descriptions of what wrestlers are like outside the ring, he sure as hell can be nameless on what they are like in the ring and in the dressing room. Our friend contributed several pages (about eight-typewritten pages) and we'll use excerpts from time to time. Here now is his column:

So what are these guys like in the dressing room? How do they treat rookies, you ask. How do the veterans treat you in the ring itself? Here are my impressions of some NWA guys.

PAUL E. DANGEROUSLY...everybody's friend...until he doesn't need something from you. He's brilliant when it comes to the business and is a wealth of knowledge, but a little two faced when it comes to talking with others.

OLE ANDERSON...a no nonsense type of guy. You almost always know where you stand with him and he's not afraid of hurting your feelings to let you know. Is helpful with advice to younger guys. Thinks he knows everything there is to know about wrestling.

TERRY FUNK...a perfectionist. He actually studies tapes of himself and jobbers in the ring. He'll go drag you away from a card game to watch yourself on TV and point out what you're doing wrong. A big help, to be sure, but damn annoying sometimes.

RIC FLAIR...in the ring, this man will guide you, lead you, and lull you into the best you can be. Working opposite him is something else. You actually start to believe that he's hurt or that you're capable of doing stuff you can't possibly do. In the dressing room though is another story. He's a gentleman to the letter G, but he doesn't like to talk technique unless you're on the inside clique.

SCOTT STEINER...I never worked with Scott, but I saw veteran jobbers sitting down with him and getting advice on how to work with him. He seemed helpful, especially in explaining difficult moves he would be trying.

GREAT MITA...one of the funniest guys I've ever met. Basically what he told me was to "stand still, let me work. Stand still, it doesn't hurt. No stand still, you gonna hurt lot." Seeing him coming at you doing that handspring elbow makes you exert all self control from standing up and applauding yourself. I don't like the damn mist though.

KEVIN SULLIVAN...God's gift to the wrestling world, or so he thinks. If you don't ask him, eventually he'll tell you that. Highly critical of work by jobbers and rookies. Thinks you should come out of the womb knowing how to execute the perfect fireman's carry.

CHRIS CRUISE...when he first came to WCW-NWA, he was a down to earth guy who just loved wrestling. Then something happened. Towards the end of his tenure, I guess he started believing what the sheets had to say about him (we all assumed that he was kissing up to the editors) and thought he was invincible. He got fired for refusing to work and had the gall to be surprised! Holds the world's record for shortest time for head to inflate from normal size to super ego size.

JIM ROSS...sheets are "required reading", but only if they say good things about him. Another guy who has let the attention the sheets have given to him go to his head. Even so, he's more than willing to help or suggest what wrestlers, even jobbers, can do to get over faster and better. Had some power with the front office, but not as much as he thought. A lot of guys blamed him for Cruise's ultimate firing because they said he didn't want the competition in the year end poll.

EDIE GILBERT...genuinely nice, but always figuring what will make him the happiest. He wasn't objectionable to doing jobs until the other wrestlers wanted to squash him. He took time to work with his jobber opponents before the match to explain the best way to take a Hot Shot. He's the kind of guy I'd believe about 50% of what he says, but that's 49% more than most people in wrestling.

JIM CORNETTE...a brilliant mind and funny. He's that way naturally. I saw him talk with fans at length if they approached him right. He was that way with wrestlers too. Sort of a loner in the dressing room, mainly because everyone suspected him of being a major leak to the sheet. Ask him about a certain video sometime.

STING...you're privileged to be breathing the same air as this guy. Obviously doesn't remember the tough road to the top.

ROAD WARRIOR ANIMAL...one of the closest friends I had in the locker room. It took a while to get to be friendly with him, but once you do, he's very loyal, unlike most wrestlers. Easily ticked off, especially if an opponent missed an easy move. If he missed a move, then became very arrogant. Friendship with Hawk was strained at times, but for the most part, very solid.

ROAD WARRIOR HAWK...very quiet. Definitely not a guy to mess with, especially when he's applying the face paint. Gets bent all out of shape when you call it make up. Very tense prior to matches, but even more laid back afterwards. Still gets the butterflies.

JUNK YARD DOG...despite all the bad things the sheets say about him, he understands wrestling. He's had personal problems in the past and had a problem staying employed because of them. But that's over and done with and he's a very down to earth guy who wishes he weighed about 100 pounds less and wishes he could do flying moves. Smart enough to know what he can and can't do without looking like a complete fool. Willing to take a rookie aside and explain the intricacies of the business to them with no BS or candy coating. "When you's on top, they loves ya. When you ain't, they (deleted) on ya."

PENCIL POINTS

1-900-RIP-OFFS

A few issues back, a reader lamented the fact that he had been ripped off by the 900 numbers. He's not alone. I too was victimized.

To hear all of the recorded message, you usually spend four to five minutes on the phone. For the usual hotline charges, that comes out to between \$3.35 and \$3.80 per call.

I called daily for a little over a month.

It didn't seem like I was on the phone all that long. But after getting a phone bill for over \$100 in 900 numbers alone, I knew I had to stop.

It wasn't easy. It was almost like getting off drugs or booze. When the 900 numbers get a grip on you, they don't want to let go.

PLEASE! Don't list them in your newsletter anymore! It costs you business (I had to stop all my subscriptions while I paid the phone bill) and it puts money in the pockets of the greedy, unscrupulous vultures that run the things.

-NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST-

-Baltimore, MD-

VERBAL EXCHANGES

I think Joe Coughlin's suggestion last issue about having interesting quotes or exchanges in the yearbook or on a semi regular basis is a good one. I've always enjoyed wrestling in the VERBAL sense a great deal. Three exchanges stick out in my mind from my youth.

#1...Vince McMahon and Pat Patterson are doing a localized interview for the Patterson-Sammartino main event in Boston circa 1978...PATTERSON: You know Bruno Sarmartino pretty well, don't you? MCMAHON: Yes. Why? PATTERSON: Well, I want you to give him this dollar so he can buy some soap because he smells and IT IRRITATES ME!!!

#2...McMahon with the Grand Wizard circa 1977...WIZARD: McMahon, my IQ is higher than the price of gold is today! VINCE: We should note the price of gold has been dropping recently (the look on the Wizard's face was priceless).

#3...McMahon with Lou Albano the first time the captain wore rubber bands in his face...VINCE: What are those things in your face...my word, they're rubber bands! ALBANO: McMahon, they're not rubber bands, they're "DIDDLY-DO'S"...especially made for the Captain's face. They're 15 dollars a piece. Out of your range, eh McMahon?

Honorable mention goes to Randy Savage for his hilarious showing on the Arsenio Hall show a week before Wrestlemania 5. Randy and Morgan Fairchild had some classic exchanges.

-CHARLIE MATTOS-

-Miami, FL-

BIG BOYS' GAME

A reader last issue asked what those who have made it big thought about their time and effort put forth in the indy circuit. Most don't think about it.

Success does a strange thing. It messes up your perception of facts. Some guys will fabricate what kind of a tough battle they had in the indies when they worked a total of three matches there. Others will claim overnight success (Lex Luger is a good example) and ignore any time spent there.

There are very few wrestlers in the business today that have any kind of a clue as to where they came from or how lucky they are to be where they're at. Falling off the top rung of the ladder helps most of them put things back in perspective in a hurry.

-NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST-

-Texas-

PRIORITIES

I was very disappointed to see that you backed out of coming to Chicago. I can't understand why. You made a trip to Springfield to see the WWF, on a weeknight yet, but you wouldn't come to Chicago on a weekend to see the NWA. I think you owe it to your readers to report on a live event, especially one that's so major and so close to home. Could this be part of the reason Wrestling Forum doesn't have the subscribers it needs to survive? Could this be part of the reason you're thinking about folding in a year? You set your own priorities, but don't go bawling to the rest of us when the numbers aren't there.

-RANDY MCNEELY-

-Highland Park, IL-

EDITOR: I believe I do have my priorities straight and my first obligation is and always has been to my family. The trip to Chicago would have put a financial drain on us plus if the car would have broken down, 200 miles is a long way to carry two kids. We'll try to make it to Starrcade but I won't promise anything.

RUDE AND THE NWA

I have to wonder what Rick Rude would mean to the NWA at this point in time. I don't think Vince will let him go there right away, but if he did, would his presence be worth anything?

Yes and no. How's that for being decisive?

Rude would be viewed as a big star. He holds wins over almost all the Titan babyfaces including Ultimate Warrior. This doesn't mean anything, because if the NWA landed him, they'd never mention his WWF wins. Therefore, he'd have to get over as people remember him. His natural ability as a heel should get him over with no problem.

But would he help? Knowing Ole, I doubt it. Ole would be so anxious to garner a Titan star that I'm afraid Rude would be doing jobs for NWA babyfaces everytime he turned around.

I would like to see Rude in the NWA because given his talent and his ring work over the past year, he would be a valuable addition. But not right now. It's too soon after the divorce to get married again.

-ERIC HOYME-

-Indianapolis, IN-

HIGH COST OF BEING A FAN

I don't think I can afford to be a wrestling fan much longer. I hope the promotions will realize this when they plan their 1991 PPV schedules and house shows.

If I buy every PPV during 1990, I'm going to end up spending between \$170 and \$200, just to watch TV. I've spent about \$200 attending WWF shows here in Chicago and about \$120 on the NWA. I've spent probably another \$75 or so in independent cards. Add to that the cost of driving out to Rosemont or downtown from Waukegan and it adds up to even more and more quickly than you suspect. At live shows, I get to pay parking fees, and if I want to know the line up I have to pay somewhere around \$3.00 just for a damn program. You'd think I was trying to buy a season ticket for the Bulls.

If I want to stay informed, then I have to spend \$36 a year on the Forum. If I want weekly information, then add another \$65 for one of the weekly newsletters.

It won't be much longer until I can't afford wrestling at all.

-KEN SNIDER-

-Waukegan, IL-

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE

A LOT TO COVER FROM here, so let's start with the results of the Halloween Havoc Pay Per View. I did not grade these matches tonight because of interruptions during most of the show (and I didn't tape the broadcast to review later).

THE SHOW OPENED WITH the Midnight Express vs Ricky Morton and Tommy Rich. Robert Gibson is out with a legit knee injury which is very similar to the injury Sting suffered. He will probably be out of action for the better part of six months. Rich was a surprisingly good replacement and the match seemed to have a nice even flow. The end saw the Southern Boys come to ringside with racquets of their own and clobber Cornette after he tried to interfere. Rich grabbed Jim's racquet and hit Lane which led to the pin. **ANALYSIS:** Another major show loss for the Express? The way it was done at least sets them up for further feuds with the Southern Boys and there's more on this in a later match involving the Southern Boys.

THE SECOND MATCH HAD Bill Irwin vs Terry Taylor. Jack Brickhouse was a guest color commentator during this one along with play by play man Jim Ross and Paul E. Dangerously. The first half of the match had little play by play as Brickhouse was telling us about all the wrestlers he remembered from when he called play by play. Occasionally, we'd get Paul E screaming, "ONE! TWO!" to interrupt Ross and Brickhouse. The memories were fine, and the match wasn't anything special, so if they had to do this, this was the match to do it in. Did that make any sense at all? Taylor pinned Irwin after Bill tried a lazy pin by just laying on Taylor with his back on Taylor's chest. Terry grapevined an arm and pulled Irwin over, locking the other arm with his for the pin. **ANALYSIS:** Taylor gets a win over designated jobber Irwin. Since Taylor hasn't been involved in a major feud yet, this was designed to put him over until something comes along in the way of a feud.

AND JUST FOR THE RECORD, I really enjoyed Jack Brickhouse's memories. That would have made for a good intermission guest, except they didn't have an intermission.

WE EVEN GOT SOME ENTERTAINMENT we hadn't bargained for. During a live interview with Sting, Black Scorpion came out and did his best David Copperfield impression. He grabbed a female technician and took her off to a curtain shrouded cage. His recorded voice boomed out over the PA, taunting Sting. They held Sting back for a moment then he broke loose and pulled away the curtain from the cage, and ALAKAZAM! He was gone! He popped up somewhere else with the girl to the utter confoundment of Paul E Dangerously in particular, and others. The reason they used the girl in the illusion is to make sure you knew they didn't just use two Black Scorpions. Everyone over played it and if this keeps up, I wouldn't be surprised to see Hulk Hogan brought in to give acting lessons.

BRAD ARMSTRONG PULLED A BIT of an upset by pinning J.W. Storm. Candy Man caught him with an inside cradle. This was definitely a surprise since Storm (Jeff Warner) is getting a push and Brad is used mainly to get other guys over. One person I talked with after the show intimated that this might have been Warner's punishment for some unknown act(s). I certainly couldn't figure the result.

WHOEVER CHOREOGRAPHED THE magic part must have taught the brass something about misdirection. Misdirection is getting the audience to think about or look at something else while you, as the magician, slip something by them. Done smoothly, the audience doesn't even realize they've been had. They attempted some misdirection during the next

match which had the Master Blasters going against the Southern Boys. Jim Cornette came to the announcer's table to do co-color with Jim Ross and Paul E. Needleless to say, the commentary and the barbs going back and forth were much better than the match. Cornette got up half way through and went to the ring to cheer on the Blasters. He ended up distracting Tracy Smothers right when it looked like the Southern Boys were going to win it and one of the Blasters caught him from behind with a clothesline which led to the pin. After the match, Tracy and Steve roughed up Cornette including spanking him. **ANALYSIS:** Well, turn about is fair play. With the Midnight Express losing earlier due to the Southern Boys interference, it only seems natural that they should reverse the situation. That way, both teams can continue to feud with either of them getting a win and with both teams being responsible for the other's loss.

ALTHOUGH IT WASN'T REALLY obvious that the live crowd was a heel crowd through any other part of the show, it was quite obvious here. The Freebirds got a tremendous ovation live. They took on the Renegade Warriors, Chris and Mark Youngblood. It was a decent match which had the 'Birds working harder than usual, possibly due to their reception. The end saw Youngblood do a rolling reverse on Garvin. While the ref was distracted, Hayes came in and delivered a DDT. Huge pop for the move. **ANALYSIS:** Freebirds needed a win to get them back over as they been losing more than their share lately. Rocky King or Little Richard Marley, whatever you want to call him, was doing his impression of Rob Gibson and limping all over. The 'birds are set to feud with Morton and Rich (Gibson when he returns) so this all helps to give them some credibility in that feud.

THE BEST MATCH OF THE NIGHT featured the Steiner Brothers vs the Nasty Boys. Scott Steiner is over in Chicago more than any other wrestler in recent memory. The crowd popped huge for anything he did. It started out as a full scale brawl and had the Steiners doing some of the crazy moves they are so well known for, including an off the top rope bulldog. I'm convinced the Steiners are the perfect team to work a scaffold match. Only problem is, there's no one outside of Cactus Jack who insane enough to work with them on a scaffold. Anyway, the middle part of this match, they tried to tell a story by working exclusively on Scott's back. They did a nice job there too. The end was wild with Rick missing a Steiner line and sailing over the top ropes. The Nasty Boys gave Scott a stuff piledriver, but Rick came in with a chair. Scott hit a Frankensteiner and that was all he needed for the pin. After the match, the Nasty Boys attacked the Steiners and left them laying. They worked over Rick's shoulder by ramming it into the steel ringpost outside. **ANALYSIS:** Even though we saw a clean win, they allowed the heels to do more damage after the match to allow the feud to continue. Later, when Scott came out to do a live interview, the Nasty Boys were dressed as popcorn vendors and attacked him again from behind. The revenge factor means we'll be seeing matches with these two teams with all sorts of special stipps (most likely cage match and Texas tornado matches) at house shows.

I MISSED THE ENTIRE NEXT MATCH and part of the one after it due to a phone call. JYD pinned Moondog Rex after a headbutt. Then came the "vendor" attack on Scott and then the Doom vs Flair/Anderson match.

THE DOOM VS FLAIR/ANDERSON bout was also very good. The live reaction was one of "quiet heat." That doesn't mean there wasn't any heat, it's just that the crowd was not really for anybody in particular but very interested. The popped on big moves for both sides. Doom played the babyface role, even though they weren't babyfaces. Flair and Anderson used heel moves but seemed to be more over than Doom.

It was interesting, especially some sequences between Flair and Butch Reed. Simmons has really improved over the past year and Reed's working like he was never in the WWF. The match went to a double count out.

ANALYSIS: With no clear cut winner, one would think that this would continue the feud. It's my understanding, though, that it won't continue and that this whole thing was just an experiment. Exactly what it was they were trying to gauge, I don't know, so I can't tell you if it was successful or not.

IN A MINOR SHOCK TO me, Stan Hansen pinned Lex Luger to win the US Heavyweight championship. I'll cover why it was a shock in the analysis. It was a decent match for both guys with lots of tight shots. This may have been the second best match on the card, and after I see the Doom-Flair/Arn match in its entirety, I can make that judgment. The end saw a ref bump and Danny Spivey come to ringside with Hansen's bull-rope and bell. Luger managed to avoid the rope and bell and a lariat, hitting Hansen with a clothesline of his own. Luger signaled for the torture rack, and then went to rebound off the ropes. Hansen caught him with the lariat and pinned him. **ANALYSIS:** I have no idea how they're ever going to get the US belt back from Hansen when they want it. The NWA has been negotiating with the Japanese about bringing in a few wrestlers for Starrcade and giving Hansen a belt that he can defend there on his tours. I'm not sure if this feud with Luger will continue or not (I'd guess not much longer if at all), but if not, it frees up Luger for all sorts of new possibilities.

NOW IT'S TIME FOR world championship screw job #4392. I haven't formed an opinion on the Sting-Vicious match yet, especially since the ending can be taken several different ways. The match itself wasn't bad considering the two guys working it were virtual cripples within the last year. Vicious drug Sting out of the ring a couple of times and finally, out of sight for just a moment. When he brought Sting back in to the ring, he pinned him almost immediately. They announced a new champion and the crowd popped. The ringsiders smelled something wrong and were pointing at the ring. All of a sudden, they discover there's two Dave Hebners, cops, two Stings in the ring. One's been tied up with rope. The original real Sting then gives the Stinger splash to Vicious and pins him. They reannounce that the winner and still champ is Sting. **ANALYSIS:** We're not done with Vicious as a serious challenge yet, but we're also not done with the shenanigans of Black Scorpion either. With this scenario, Sting still has two viable challengers for his title even though they've run Sting against various Black Scorpions across the circuit already. The screwy ending may hurt more than help on buy rates, though, as even though it was done this time to a heel, fans are going to be tired of seeing weird stuff ending the championship matches of PPVs.

NO WORD YET ON BUYRATES, but I know for a fact that only three orders were received by our local cable company.

LIVE ATTENDANCE WAS GOOD and the advance gate was at about \$75,000 as of Friday. We do not have figures from the State Athletic Commission yet as of Monday afternoon. We'll have those figures next issue.

THERE WERE TWO DARK matches that opened the live show. Tim Horner pinned Barry Horowitz in the opener and in the second match, Reno Riggins beat newcomer Rip Rogers.

11

IN OTHER NEWS, JIM CORNETTE has been accused of thumping another fan with his tennis racquet. The Uniontown Morning Herald reports in its 10/21 edition that Mark Williams, 42, Altoona, PA was struck by Cornette while attending matches at the Jaffa Mosque. "Police said Williams sustained a three inch gash on the top of his head after James Mark Cornette, 29, hit him with a tennis racquet....Versions of the incident differ, police said...Cornette and Eaton said Williams charged the ring and began scratching at the wrestler who grabbed the spectator and held him. Cornette then wielded the tennis racquet and struck Williams Williams' wife said her husband was standing behind a railing at ringside taking photographs. She said Cornette then walked over to Williams and hit him with the racquet. Security guards escorted Williams from the arena, but he returned. He collapsed while being taken from the hall a second time." My thanks to Bill Gerke of Uniontown for passing along the clipping and to the Morning Herald for permission to reprint selected parts.

THE NWA IS TRYING SOMETHING new on an experimental basis. Recently on a show in Florida, it was announced that the Midnight Express had defeated the Steiner Brothers for the US tag team belts in St. Louis on the night before. The match went on and the Steiners ended up pinning the Express and "regaining" the title. Only problem is, the NWA did not even wrestle the previous night in St. Louis. The whole idea was to make fans think they had seen a title change hands at a house show, something that fans have been conditioned to think can't happen. The AWA used to do this all the time when I was growing up, but back then, we had no means of sharing information through newsletters.

LEX LUGER IS GOING TO get a guest appearance on the syndicated Superboy TV series. We understand that his appearance will be on during the first part of November. No word on what kind of role he plays. Interesting, as Larry Pfohl took the name Lex Luger from the Superman comics (as in Lex Luthor) to use as a ring name.

NEWCOMERS INCLUDE RIP Rogers who worked the dark match of the Havoc show. He will be used in a jobber role only. There had been talk of bringing in Jake Roberts to use as the "real" Black Scorpion, but that was just someone from the NWA blowing smoke.

STARRCADE PLANS CONTINUE and it looks like the annual show will feature an eight team tag tournament. They are planning on bringing in six teams from outside the NWA to compete with a couple of teams from Japan, one from Canada and one or two from Mexico being talked about. Great Muta is one who is being considered and the NWA is hopeful that they can work out a deal with him and possibly Masa Chono. The reason for trying this stems from the success of the last Clash of Champion which drew record numbers of viewers with a lot of debuting talent. NWA brass reasons that people tuned into the Clash because they were curious about all the new talent so the same ought to apply for a Pay Per View. I see one major flaw in the reasoning; People will tune in out of curiosity when it isn't going to cost them \$14.95 to satisfy their curiosity. No doubt the card will be rounded out with a couple of singles matches, probably Sting vs Scorpion and Luger vs Hansen.

OLE IS CURRENTLY IN a desperate search for someone to work as Scorpion who will fit all the clues he's given to Scorpion's identity. Backwards. Usually you find someone, then give clues. It's much harder the way Ole is handling things.

THE PHANTOM OF THE RING

JON AND VERNE - In the last issue of this august publication, our editor was mulling over the tortured history of the AWA and their problems with simple math. Jon was musing on the history of the AWA and gave the standard line about the belt supposedly deriving from Ed Carpentier, who defeated Lou Thesz in 1957.

Yes Jon, that is history as the AWA claims it to be. However, reality is somewhat different. Thesz was not popular in some parts of the country, and there was considerable resentment on the part of other promoters about his long reign as NWA champ. Eddie Quinn, who controlled Montreal, was pushing Carpentier as champ. The acrobatic Frenchman was a popular success since arriving on these shores in 1953. Tony Stecher was pushing Verne Gagne for champ. Vince McMahon wanted Rogers or Rocca. The choice of Dick Hutton only served to inflame matters; the affected promoters saw this as favoring the Tunney promotions and wondered when their chance would come. When it came time to dethrone Hutton, the championship sweepstakes exploded. Pat O'Connor was the final choice. He was Fred Kohler's man and it was felt that owing to his popularity in the Midwest and Quebec that he would satisfy the dissenters. Also at that meeting McMahon was promised that Rogers would succeed O'Connor.

This was too much for the dissenters. Joe Dusek in Omaha recognized Carpentier as champ along with Quinn. Stecher fussed around for a short while before recognizing Mr. M (Bill Miller under a hood) as champ. Carpentier dropped the belt in the Omaha version and kept the belt in Montreal. Eventually, Fritz Von Erich wound up with the strap. In 1963, the Minneapolis and Omaha offices staged a unification bout with Gagne beating Von Erich.

The odd thing about all this is that in the last issue I spoke on this problem in my article on Pat O'Connor. Obviously, my editor never bothered to read his own Phantom's article. I have often wondered if anyone out there read this stuff and have often suspected that I was writing for myself. I guess I have my answer - things are really bad when one's editor doesn't even bother to read your stuff. Oh well, call me Dick Hutton.

STAN THE LARIAT VS. STAN THE MAN

There seems to be a debate raging in these pages as to the relative merits of one Stan "the Lariat" Hansen and his standing in the eyes of serious fans. There are few people whose opinion I respect more than Steve Yohe, who wrote in to defend Hansen from Jon's criticism. However, in this dispute I must take Jon's side.

I remember Stan when he first wrestled in the WWF. He fit

the WWF mold perfectly - long on character and brawling, short on wrestling ability. He was the perfect opponent for Bruno. also in stan's favor was the fact that Freddie Blassie was chosen to stooge for him. Freddie was at the height of his managerial career and got Stan over as a hated villain, especially with the Hispanic fans, by using lines such as, "I found Stan here on the plains of Texas. He was turning over rocks and squashing the Mexicans who ran out from under them." Stan's finishing Lariat had never really been seen before, and when combined with a man of Hansen's size, looked really great when sold right by the opponent. His series of matches with Bruno and Ivan Putski put the fannies in the seats and made them come back for the inevitable rematch.

Stan's claim to fame was that he "broke" Bruno's neck with the Lariat. Great hype, but the truth was that Stan did indeed fracture Bruno's neck, but it was purely accidental. Stan accidentally dropped Bruno too soon while executing a body slam and Sammartino fell on his neck. Later in the dressing room, Bruno bent over to unlace his boots and couldn't straighten out. This made for endless matches with Bruno substitutes, all of whom Hansen destroyed. The big revenge match versus Bruno was held at Shea Stadium in a cage during the Ali-Inoki fiasco. The crowd was estimated at somewhere between 32,000 and 40,000 with about 34,000 paid being the best estimate.

However, after Bruno's win, Stan's drawing power quickly evaporated. I don't believe he ever reached the same heights until recently, when he seems to be venerated by some fans as the heir apparent to Bruiser Brody. I generally like Stan Hansen, but I find his brawling style boring after a short while. Basically, I find all brawlers ultimately boring, just as I do the acrobats; I prefer wrestling technique to flash and bash.

I also remember some of Stan's more lethargic performances, especially in the smaller towns. I have always held it against a wrestler who doesn't go out for the fans, no matter what the size of the town. Say what you will about Dusty (and I've said plenty), but during the live shows I've seen him at, whether at the Garden or at Orange, N.J., he always gives the same performance.

As to Stan's hard style against the jobbers I have to agree with Jon 100%. It's all too easy to beat up on people who are scared stiff in most cases to even be in the ring with you. To me it becomes a matter of taste rather than of style. If the Ultimate Warrior were to do this, the Smart Set would holler, "What a stiff." When Stan Hansen does it, the same folks holler, "What a gutsy performer." Sorry to disagree with you Steve, but in my eyes a stiff is a stiff is a stiff, no matter what his reputation in the eyes of the fans.

Lou Thesz could make it look like he was killing someone when in actuality he was barely touching the guy. To do that takes real ability - anyone can smack someone around, and therein lies the real difference, even in a sport such as wrestling.

THINGS TO THINK ABOUT
BY SEAN HENDRICK

With steroids being one of the hotter topics in sports today and one that is rarely touched in these pages I thought that I would throw out some comments and observations on the subject.

The steroids issue is sort of unique in pro wrestling in that fans appear to view the topic in the same manner as religion or politics. By that I mean that you either have a strong opinion on the subject or no opinion at all. The vocal majority is that steroids are a major problem and that it will eventually lead to some sort of change in the sport or some sort of reform will occur after a steroid related accident.

One thing to keep in mind when talking about an expose on steroids in wrestling is to remember that the information regarding the incident will have to be made public. As we know, when we speak about steroids and the possible abuses, the criticisms and concerns are mainly directed at the WWF. And if there was to be an incident involving one of the WWF boys there would be and may have already been a cover up the likes of which we could hardly believe. It would make the David Von Erich tragedy look like an open book. One possible situation to watch for and we have sort of seen already is the side effect of steroid usage in regards to the violent tendencies the user develops. And someday the wrong person will be on the wrong end of that situation and that could cause more problems than any death or crippling injury.

Another observation on this topic is that there is a double edged sword view of steroids in the fans eyes is that if you have a decent work rate and are an insider favorite your name is rarely brought up in the criticism of the use but if you are not a good worker or big in the insiders eyes you are condemned as a short cut artist and someone who doesn't care about the sport.

It is a shame that this is a subject that will not go away soon or will be able to be regulated in any way. It has taken decades to reach this level and it will take years to resolve or retool the public perception that will in the end cause a different direction to be taken in pro wrestling. One thing to remember when discussing the evolution of wrestling (or anything else for that matter) is that at some point change is inevitable and when an evolution occurs it is not always for the better, (See the year 1984 in wrestling history).

Well that is enough of that. For the record, I fall in the category of not really being to concerned with the entire steroid issue.

SCATTERED THOUGHTS

Does anyone else wonder if this gimmick with the giant egg is some sort of foreshadowing on the future of the WWF, as in "laying a giant egg."

Count Rochester as another market that the NWA World Wide show has been cancelled/pulled. People at our FOX station where the show played told me that there will be no more local live NWA shows either. I wish I could say I was surprised by this.

WWF in town in mid November for a TV taping. This was a fast return, usually they tape here once a year in the summer.

I have to agree with the thoughts that Brutus Beefcake has been treated a little unfairly since his injury. The least they could have done was to give a get well address to send cards and letters and use the incoming stuff to update the mailing files.

Is it just me or does anyone else think it is a bit cheap not to have a toll free number for gimmick merchandise sales.

CLASS ACT OF THE MONTH

October, 1990

THIS MONTH'S AWARD IS easy, albeit a little personal. We salute Dennis Corraluzo, a New Jersey promoter and a host of wrestlers appearing on a very special show.

PHILADELPHIA WILL BE THE site of this show on 11/9. It will benefit Tom Robinson, longtime fan in that area who has had some tremendous medical expenses. All the wrestlers are donating their time.

TOM WAS A FAN WHO WANTED to get in the business somehow and Corraluzo had given him a couple of starting dates as a manager before Tom fell victim to illness.

A SPECIAL MENTION IS TO be made of the appearance of Jim Cornette and the Midnight Express. Jim and Dennis and Tom have been friends for years. Cornette, we're told, threatened to quit the NWA if he and his team weren't allowed to work this benefit. In a world of backstabbing and lying, it's great to see this type of loyal friendship come before the dollar.

GOOD LUCK WITH THE SHOW, Gentlemen, and a special get well prayer for Tom.

DIPSTICK OF THE MONTH

October, 1990

THE VON ERICH FAMILY once had a lock on this monthly award. Kevin Von Erich is proudly carrying on that family tradition.

KEVIN PROBABLY DIDN'T set out to be our dipstick. In all fairness, he's probably just a victim of bad timing. But like a certain newsletter editor, if it weren't for bad luck, he'd have no luck at all.

HIS BRILLIANT TIMING with the takeover of World Class Wrestling is something to consider, even though that decision was made last month. Add that to his luck this past week, and even though you can't say it was on purpose, you still end up shaking your head and saying, "That poor dipstick!"

KEVIN WAS SCHEDULED for the main event last week in the Sportatorium. But Kevin's luck didn't hold out. He came up with a bleeding ulcer and was hospitalized, no showing his own show.

IT COULD ONLY HAPPEN to a Von Erich. Or a Gallagher.

HONORABLE MENTION goes to myself for not listening to people who know about computers and dealing with Apple.

SPECIAL MENTION GOES to an unnamed person in the NWA. I'm not sure of the person responsible, but it's the guy who's in charge of syndication. Talk about being asleep on the job! How can a company lose that many stations with no back up plan to replace them! How could they not know something like this was coming! Then again, maybe whoever this person is doesn't even know it yet!

INDEPENDENTLY SPEAKING

HERB ABRAMS' UNF WILL hold their next TV tpaing in Reseda on 11/8 with the following matches advertised on top: Paul Orndorff vs Steve Williams; B Brian Blair vs Dan Spivey; Billy Jack Haynes vs Colonel DeBeers; Nikita Koloff vs Ken Patera; Jay Strongbow vs Bob Orton. Also advertised as appearing are Rick Rude, Terry Gordy, Wild Thing and Captain Lou Albano. Larry Sampson, a black referee, will be the special ref assigned to the Colonel DeBeers match.

ROB RUSSEN PULLED OFF a good deal for his International Wrestling Association. He has signed on with the Hagen Network, a cable network that is presently in about 30 million homes across the US. In the deal, Hagen has agreed to pay for all production cost of filming TV, however they will not be paying Russen for the show itself. Russen will be allotted six minutes of air time each week which he can sell to national advertisers and keep the money from those spots. Russen is telling folks that if the SportsChannel America picks up his show again during the winter months, a second show will be produced for them.

WINDY CITY IS RUNNING a couple more shows in the Chicagoland area, using mainly the talent from the wrestling school.

THE AWA ACTUALLY HAD A SHOW this past two weeks in Coon Rapids, MN with about 100 in attendance. The show benefited the United Way-Boy Scouts. I'm not sure "benefited" is the right word. Word is that the AWA had the Boy Scouts put up money before the show and then they would split whatever money was at the gate. Usually, the AWA's required front money is around \$5000, so unless the 100 tickets were sold at about \$50 each, I doubt if the Boy Scouts made any money. The day is long past when the AWA can use its name or wrestling's reputation in hopes of an organization drawing a big crowd. Verne Gagne has said more than once, "I'm not promoting a show on MY nickel!"

THE ASWA OUT OF MARYLAND is back from a tour of Guam and Saipan. They had originally scheduled five shows and had to settle for doing just three. The group found out that you don't promote in Guam on a week night. Guam parents are very strict about their children getting to school the next day and even if the show ends early, all the kids talk about the next day is wrestling. As a result, the attendance wasn't near what it was the first time they toured, and even though they didn't lose money, they didn't make anywhere close to what they had expected. Touring with the group this time were Paul Orndorff, and the regular cast of ASWA wrestlers including Axl Rotten, and referee Dave McAllister. Another thing the group learned was that you don't do a show in the middle of the afternoon in the heat of the islands. Rotten was not allowed to work as a wrestler, but instead, worked as a manager.

ACCORDING TO A SOURCE at ESPN, the AWA will officially lose their spot on that network in November. The source cites several reasons among which are the fact that the AWA has not done any new tapes for so long and show no willingness to do so. The source tells me that the AWA refuses to return phone calls, and when phone connections are made, the AWA gives the network lines that even marks wouldn't believe. The source tells me that during one conversation with Bob Ryan of the AWA, he had asked when the AWA was going to do another TV taping. Ryan allegedly replied, "we're working on more important things right now." The source asked what's more important than a wrestling company producing wrestling shows and Ryan allegedly replied, "Almost anything."

CHRIS CHAMPION WAS recently arrested for trying to French kiss a 14 year old girl in Evansville, IN. That was reported here a couple issues ago. Now, another girl from Evansville has come forward and charged the same thing. And one in Lexington, KY as well. Although there has been no trial yet, everyone seems to be passing judgement already. Eddie Marlin was quoted as saying that if Champion was found guilty, he'd be let go. Otherwise, he would continue to work for the company. But, in the past three weeks, there's been no Chris Champion, or Cowabunga the Ninja Turtle on any of Memphis' shows. They don't even mention his name.

IN OTHER OUT OF THE RING news, a situation is developing between Jarrett promotions and the Mid South Coliseum over the selling of beer in the facility. Beer sales were banned in July on an experimental basis due to some incidents that may have been alcohol related. The Jarretts would like to see the moratorium on continued so that they can push wrestling as "family entertainment." The Coliseum officials want beer sales reinstated because of the drop off in revenue due to the prohibition. Beth Wade, managing director of the facility was quoted in the Memphis Commercial Appeal (daily newspaper) as saying that she didn't think that beer was ever the problem. She cited lack of security in the parking lot as the main factor, a problem which she claims has now been rectified. The Coliseum now charges \$2.00 for parking which the Jarrett promotion has agreed to pay so they can still provide free parking to their customers. Jerry Lawler is quoted in the story as saying that Wade is the problem and that she wants wrestling out of the coliseum. Lawler says that he wouldn't be surprised to see wrestling move out of the facility if things continue as they are. As of right now, the ban on the brew will continue.

ON TO IN-RING NEWS, The Internationals, co managed by Downtown Bruno and Tojo Yamamoto, have a new member. Lou Fabiano is now Sheik Fabiano and he joins Sheik Hussein and Samurai for a team that will get little if any more push.

JAMIE DUNDEE, BILL DUNDEE'S scrawny kid is back a little less scrawny than we saw him last time. Eddie Gilbert and Sam Bass-Lowe came out during Jamie's initial interview spot and tried to recruit him. He refused and the heels were joined by Bruno and Tojo. Jamie finally attacked them, but was badly outnumbered. Bill Dundee ran in to make the save, but he couldn't until Jerry Lawler came out and cleared the studio. As a result, Bill Dundee requested that they add one match to the upcoming Monday night card with him, Jamie and Lawler against all three Internationals.

DANNY DAVIS BEAT DOUG Gilbert in a special challenge match a couple weeks back to take another \$2500 from him. This led to a tag match for \$5000 with Davis and Brickhouse going up against the tag champs Dirty White Boy and Doug. The champs had an interesting interview leading up to the match. They claimed that Brick and Davis weren't top contenders. As for top contenders, when asked, they named off the Fabulous Kangaroos, the Interns, the Mighty Yankees, (all teams from at least one decade, maybe two decades ago) plus jobber teams like Ken Raper and Freezer Thompson.

IN THAT MATCH ON 10/22, the heels won back the \$5000 when Dirty White Girl sprayed something in Brickhouse's eyes. She's supposed to get half the money for helping.

ALSO ON THE 10/22 CARD, Jerry Lawler was to have defended his title against Mean Mark Callous, but Callous no showed. Instead, Lawler

a newcomer called M.C. Jammer, abig black guy who's still pretty stiff. They started to set up something for the 10/29 card with Jammer attacking Lawler on TV and Bruno ending up getting the worst of the deal.

BRUNO IS CLAIMING TO have a secret weapon at his disposal and Lawler will have to wrestle whoever it is on the 10/29 card. Bruno refused to tell who it was, but did drop the following clues: 1) he was an All-American football player in High School. 2) he attended college on a full football scholarship. 3) He played two years of pro football. 4) He can bench press 700 pounds. I dunno. Sure sounds like Steve Dr. Death Williams to me. I think that's who they're trying to make it sound like if it isn't.

A COUPLE OF POINTS IN FAVOR of it being Williams are these: he's been listed in their official top ten for the past three weeks even though he hasn't appeared in the area. And, Jerry Lawler made the comment while reading the top ten that Williams was one of the three listed that he had never wrestled. Then again, Ricky Steamboat has been listed in the last two top tens and I doubt we'll be seeing him soon.

THERE ARE A COUPLE OF HEADS of hair at stake on the 10/29 card. Bruno is putting up his hair in the Lawler vs Secret Weapon match against Lawler's title. The second title vs hair match involves Southern champion Jeff Jarrett vs Eddie Gilbert's hair. I guess you can see who the new Southern champion will be before you read this.

EDDIE AND JEFF HAD MET on the previous Monday night card. It turned into a pull apart brawl with Jeff hitting a gusher. Eddie and Sam were out on the 10/27 TV show claiming the title already and saying that this was the prelude to the crowning of the new king in Memphis. Eddie is now insisting that he be announced from Memphis instead of Lexington, TN. Wonder if that has anything to do with Chris Champion?

BRICKHOUSE BROWN HAS A new valet named Icey Hott. She and Dirty White Girl look like they will work the same way Tessa and Vicious Viki did before. Wonderful. But at least it keeps DWG and her skimpy outfits in front of the camera. Icey is reportedly a terrible actress.

THEY SHOWED A TAPE of the Internationals vs the Dundees from the previous week. Jamie kept running in the ring to make the save every time it looked like Bill would be pinned. Eddie finally came to ringside and handcuffed Bill to the ropes. Jamie then hit a real gusher and they had to digitalize the picture. I'm told by some that this was Jamie's first blade job.

DANNY DAVIS WRESTLED Jeff Jarrett in a TV match where Davis was going to try and move into the top ten list. He came out before the match and said that he wanted to wrestle a clean, fair and square match with Jarrett. Ken Wayne (who will be special ref in another Davis vs Doug Gilbert match on Monday the 29th) did color during the match and he was without a doubt, a heel commentator. At the end of the babyface match, Eddie Gilbert ran in and they ended up going after Jarrett. They spray painted Jeff's back yellow.

TOP TEN LIST HERE AS OF 10/27 is as follows: 10-Mean Mark; 9-Steamboat; 8-Dick Slater; 7-Dick Murdoch; 6-Dundee; 5-Eddie Gilbert; 4-Bigelow; 3-Steve Williams; 2-Terry Funk; 1- Jeff Jarrett. Lawler is the champion of course and the Southern champ always gets the number one spot in the ratings.

AN I THOUGHT AFTER attending the TV tapings last week, I wouldn't have anything to write about this issue. Silly me.

RICK RUDE WASN'T THE only wrestler to be pink slipped as reported last issue. The only difference is that Rude's departure is immediate while the others - which we'll get to in a moment - are on a delayed basis, taking effect at different times.

KOKO B WARE, JIMMY Snuka, Jim Brunzell, Brois Zhukov, Nicolai Volkoff, Greg Valentine, Akeem, and Paul Diamond all have been given notice by the company. Their departures will happen between November 9 when the WWF cuts back to two shows per night and just after the Survivor's Series.

JIM NEIDHART AND HONKY Tonk Man have also been given pink slips, but as it was explained to me, they will remain with Titan in some capacity or another. They just won't be in the ring as active wrestlers.

THERE IS TALK THAT NEIDHART will get a tryout as a color commentator, replacing Roddy Piper who is soon to step back into the ring as an active competitor. I personally think Neidhart's announcing will get over like the proverbial lead balloon, but it's Vince's money they're spending, not mine, so we'll leave it at that.

AS FOR HONKY TONK MAN, they want to keep him on in some capacity that has not been mentioned yet. Maybe they want him inside the chicken mascot suit.

NOW, WHAT ABOUT THE HART Foundation with them holding the tag titles and Neidhart being phased out of an active role? Word that I get here is that the Rockers will take the tag titles in either Indianapolis or Fort Wayne this Monday or Tuesday night in a babyface match. The scenario that has been given to me involves Neidhart and Bret Hart having some communication problems during the match which leads to the loss and an eventual heel turn for Neidhart. My source wasn't sure if this would air as part of the regular syndicated show or Saturday Night's Main Event which is supposed to be taped at Fort Wayne for an air date of 11/24. With Survivor Series coming up on the 22nd, that would give us the idea that something is going to happen during the Hart Foundation's survival match that will spur the turn and the losing of the belts on the 24th.

SPECULATION IS RUNNING high that Mean Mark Calloway is the wrestler coming out of the egg. We were told that it was to be a chicken and that he would become the official mascot of the WWF. I still believe that story. First, because of the source it came from and second, because of the way they're handling it. At Springfield, they were having little kids come up on camera and feel the egg. They were asking the kids what was in it (and probably feeding them the lines they wanted used). If a heel wrestler was coming out of the egg, I doubt they would be having kids come up and touch the thing. They might use kids, but I think they'd rather have the kids acting scared of it rather than arousing their curiosity.

WE REPORTED LAST ISSUE that JJ Dillon was on his way back to the NWA. Wrong. He's still with Titan. The story came from one of our readers who met him at an airport and asked what he was doing now. JJ totally kay-fabed the reader and us. JJ was on his way to Japan to work a deal with one of the Japanese promoters about using Titan talent on the islands. Both the NWA and WWF called me to task on this one. Sorry for the error.

ADD ONE MORE NAME to the list of departures. Lanny Poffo, aka the Genius, has been notified that his employment is coming to an end. Randy Savage is not happy about this as Lanny is a big reason Randy

signed on with Titan in the first place. Randy's not in the best bargaining position however; he's set to be Ultimate Warrior's next challenger and that means he's into some major bucks from the box office receipts. Given that, I doubt that he's ready to pull any kind of take it or leave it offerr, because Titan would be in a position to do it to him.

THERE IS ALL SORT OF speculation running around on why Titan cut back on talent and on shows. Some have expressed the thought that Titan was running into financial difficulties. I don't buy that. The cutback was, no doubt, economically motivated, but not because they were going broke or anything like that. I think someone sat down and penciled out figures that show that running two shows per night with mostly feud matches would make more money in the long run than three shows with the third show featuring a low level feud plus a lot of jobber matches. Transportation costs alone should save thousands of dollars. Bringing a lot of top names in and "loading up" a card, will mean not only more ticket sales, but also more souvenir sales as well.

OF COURSE, THIS ALSO means that fans in the smaller towns won't get wrestling quite so often, if at all. With gas prices at an all time high, (not to mention ticket prices), the strategy may not be as effective as they originally thought.

VINCE MCMAHON HIMSELF SPENT some time on the road over the last couple of weeks. He was touring with Hulk Hogan, mainly on a California swing. McMahon was discussing business with Hogan as well as doing some on site market research.

A PROBLEM DEVELOPED WHILE on tour that could have had some very heavy repercussions. Hogan demanded that he get the title back at Wrestlemania VII. Hogan told McMahon that he had promised all his little Hulksters that he would be champ again someday. Someday, according to Hogan was to be Wrestlemania where he wanted to take the title back from Ultimate Warrior. McMahon told Hogan that they had agreed prior to Wrestlemania VI that once Hogan lost the title, he would not be getting it back. McMahon used the logic before and after that when Hogan went down as champion, it would be to another babyface, not a heel. That way, no heel could claim that he was the one to finally end Hogan's reign.

WE DON'T KNOW EXACTLY what was agreed on, but we do know that Vince and Hogan worked out whatever differences they had. The market research that Vince was doing was trying to discover why fans weren't showing up for house shows. I'm sure that what he found out was that Earthquake and Bravo aren't the fans' idea of invincible heels. Just fat slob who happened to get lucky.

ADD RON GARVIN TO THE list of departures.

INTERESTING SITUATION WITH both sides doing a complete reversal. Titan had been claiming that Rick Rude had fired. Rude claimed that he had quit. Now Titan is saying that he quit and Rude's saying he was fired. What brought about this sudden reversal? Rude wants to work for other independent promotions. Titan doesn't want him to.

SEE, IF RUDE WAS FIRED, that would negate his contract with Titan. If he quit, then he would not be allowed to work for anyone else (NWA, independent or even Japan) until his contract with Titan officially expired which is over a year away. Titan is hopeful that before the year is up, Rude may come back and work. If that happens, they may try to push a contract on him that would extend his indentured servitude to Titan past the current expiration date. A similar occurrence happened with Terry Taylor earlier in the year. Taylor was not forced to sign a contract, and he just worked on house shows doing jobs and picking up some extra cash until he could officially start with the NWA.

A MOMENT IS AFOOT to bring back Jesse Ventura as color commentator on the Superstars show. They aren't unhappy with Roddy Piper's work, but they think that he can be better used in the ring on occasion. Jesse is running for mayor in the town of Brooklyn Park, MN (really), plus is involved in a lot of other activities and he's not sure if he wants to come back or not. The election is in a couple of weeks and I'm sure the outcome of that will influence his decision on whether to return to the broadcast booth or not.

HOT RUMOR OF THE month comes from here, but we can't find anyone to substantiate it. The rumor has Titan Sports interesting in acquiring Jarrett promotions in Memphis. As the story goes, they would use the group separately, not acknowledging its existence, as a farm group. A place to send talent when they got stale and a place to develop talent is what it would be used for. Jim Crockett tried this with at least two other territories and it failed miserably, mainly because Crockett became too involved in the promotion and was sending in special talent every week. With the WWF learning from this experience, they might be able to pull something off. Folks in the Jarrett office in Hendersonville, TN laughed the rumor off and told me that if it was true, they hadn't heard about it yet. The person I spoke with said, "Oh well, we're always the last to know anyway!"

WHEN THE WWF RAN Cedar Rapids last weekend, some of the matches may have been short. Tugboat, Earthquake, and Bravo along with Jim Duggan had to catch a special flight out of town to pop up (I believe) in Denver where they were going to film an angle and interview for Hogan's team during Survivor's Series.

LATE WORD IN THAT the names given earlier as to have gotten pink slips may have quite a few more added to. I'm told that all told, we'll have about twenty wrestlers who are presently working, not working. There may be some last minute shuffling of names as well to keep some of the wrestlers working past Thanksgiving and up till the new year. One person I spoke with says that all the names who have been given notice will be recalled by Wrestlemania time, but many will be let go after that. Gee, sounds like a factory job to me.

TITAN HANDED OUT a 17 question survey at the Los Angeles Sports Arena last trip in. Mark Gross passed the survey along to us and it asks questions like sex, age, are you attending with a child 11 or under, where and how you got your ticket for tonight's event, where you heard about it and if you are planning on attending Wrestlemania VII. Filling out the survey got you a chance to win two tickets to Wrestlemania VII.

RESULTS FROM ALL OVER

10/19 NEW YORK (WWF) - courtesy of JOE MANNION...Shane Douglas pinned Brooklyn Brawler (D)...Warlord over Koko (D-)...Hernig drew Kerry (B)...Mike Sharpe pinned SD Jones (Z)...DiBiase beat Dusty by DQ (C)...Davey Boy Smith defeated Haku (B)...Tugboat downed Bravo by DQ (F)...Harts over R&B (D+)...NOTES: Rhodes got caught using ring bell that DiBiase brought into ring...Bravo kept kicking Tugboat as he tried to re-enter ring to get DQ'd...Valentine missed Bret and hit HIM with guitar for pin.

10/20 MOLINE, IL (WWF) - courtesy of JOEL KOLSRUD...Buddy Rose pinned Jim Powers (B)...Battlecat (Bob Bradley) over Pez Whatley (Z)...Jim Duggan beat Barry O (F)...Ted DiBiase beat Dusty by DQ (C-)...Tony Atlas pinned Paul Diamond (C)...Tito Santana over Boris Zhukov (C)...Bushwhackers beat Orient Express (C)...NOTES: Attendance: 3000...Rose now brings a scale to the ring to prove his weight...he claims he's 217 but after he gets on the scales he claims their broke - because they only read 215...Barry Orton was a sub for Barbarian...Furji did an imitation of a statue at ringside, not moving a muscle during the whole match.

10/20 LOS ANGELES (WWF) - courtesy of MARK GROSS...Dustin Rhodes over Black Bart (C-)...Ron Garvin pinned Mike Sharpe (C-)...Bossman over Barbarian (B+)...Genius beat Jim Brunzell (ZZ)...Slaughter beat Volkoff (ZZZ)...Hogan/Tugboat beat EQ/Bravo by DQ (C-)...NOTES: Attendance 4750...Slaughter over big as a heel...Vince watched Hogan match from dressing room door...low attendance may have been due to USC vs Arizona right next door at Coliseum.

10/21 BALTIMORE (NWA) - courtesy of FRED NAARISMA...Pillman beat Iron Sheik...Master Blasters pinned Southern Boys...JW Stornum over Tommy Rich...Steiner Brothers beat Nasty Boys...Sid Vicious pinned Junk Yard Dog...Luger beat Hansen by DQ...Sting pinned another fake Scorpion...Doom DOOR Flair/Anderson...NOTES: Attendance: 3000...Sting watches were to be given away to kids 14 and under but they never arrived so watches will now be available at the box office beginning the 24th for anyone with a valid ticket stub...Stornum turned a Thesz press into a hot shot - the second time...they botched it the first time...Nasty Boys destroyed Steiners after bout to set up cage match on next card...Hansen and Luger appear to respect each other's abilities as they are working well together...Doom got about 60% cheers.

HAS THE FORUM BEEN SOLD?!?!

Not quite, pilgrim. Despite another newsletter listing the address of a new bulletin called "Wrestling Forum" out in California, we are still located in Knoxville. The other newsletter has pretended that we don't exist for some time now; maybe it's time to let everyone know that we do and make Wrestling Forum Wrestling's Worst Kept Secret.

Next issue we start what could be our final subscription drive. Apple just called and wants to know if they can deliver the computer tomorrow. Only if I can tell them where I want them to stick it....

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

MISCELLANEOUS STUFF

WE NEED TO CLEAR UP a couple of points in the Ring of Immortals balloting: First, the rule for nomination is that a wrestler must have EITHER been retired for at least five years, or have at least 20 years ring experience. That's why Harley Race and Terry Funk made the list of nominees. Neither are retired, but they both have the required 20 years ring work to be nominated. Bill Miller on the other hand, has been retired for five years or more, but doesnot have 20 years of activity But due to the first rule, he qualifies.

ONE MORE TIME ON THE list of nominees and how you vote: WRESTLERS: Jack Brisco, Gorgeous George, Verne Gagne, Karl Gotch, Ed Lewis, Killer Kowalski, Bill Miller, Bruno Sammartino, Pat O'Connor, Sensational Destroy Frank Gotch (inadvertently listed as Karl on the original ballot), Jackie Fargo, Danny Hodge, Antonio Inoki, Rikidozan, Terry Funk, Andre the Giant, Rikidozan, Harley Race, Original Tiger Mask. VOTE FOR UP TO THREE CHOICES ONLY. FOR TAG TEAMS: Vachon Brothers, Kangaroos, Brisco Brothers, Funk Brothers, Torres Brothers, Ole & Gene Anderson, Harley Race and Larry Hennig. VOTE FOR UP TO TWO TEAMS. FOR ANNOUNCERS, PROMOTER AND MANAGERS: Dick Lane, Saul Weingeroff, Wally Karbo, Paul Jones (Atlanta area promoter, not the current manager), Jack Brickhouse, Jimmy Lennon, Sam Mennacher. VOTE FOR UP TO TWO.

VOTES MUST BE SUBMITTED ON A POSTCARD ONLY. You do not have to be a subscriber to vote, however, your ballot must contain your name and address. One postcard per person only. Anonymous ballots will not count. Votes will be tallied on 12/1/90 and the inductees will be announced in the Wrestling Forum Yearbook available about the middle of February. Address for postcard votes is: WRESTLING FORUM, BOX 65, KNOXVILLE, IL 61448.

AND JUST SO YOU don't get the idea that I don't read submission, especially the Phantom's submissions, I do. It's just that the paragraph Ed refers to in this issue's column was written about a week before I got Ed's in the mail. Lazy I am. Too lazy to go back and change something that's already typed. But I always read whatever goes into the bulletin to make sure I don't get in too much hot water.

PROBLEMS FOR NWA JOBBER Rick Fargo. While on his way home from work at an Atlanta bar, he allegedly ran a stop sign and ran over a pedestrian while trying to avoid getting broadsided. The pedestrian died as a result and Fargo, whose real name was listed in reports as Athur Lefler, 26, was being held on a variety of charges including running a stop sign, driving under the influence, possession of marijuana and one or two counts of vehicular homicide. The incident occurred on October 27 (not sure if that's Friday night late or Saturday night late or the early morning hours).

NEXT ISSUE WE BEGIN THE annual balloting for our year end awards. We'll have about 30 different categories plus a lot of reader participation surveys for you to take part in. We want to be sure and set the record this year for number of ballots received because this is very possibly the last poll we'll be doing.

UNTIL THEN, WE'RE ALMOST ON time for once so we better run over to the printer. Apple guarantees me (HA!) that there will be a computer sitting on my desk by Saturday morning. I'll bet they send Elvis and Marilyn Monroe over to install it.

SEE YA IN TWO! BYE.

WRESTLING FORUM V5129
JON GALLAGHER - EDITOR
BOX 65
KNOXVILLE, IL 61448

STILL OLD FASHIONED: To tell if your subscription is current, look at the color of ink used in printing your address label above. If it's black ink, your subscription is current. If it's **GREEN INK** then this is your next to last issue. If it's **RED INK** then this is the last issue on your subscription and it's time to renew. Thanks for reading!